

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03639 020359Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W
-----079813 162107Z /64/11

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7114

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3639

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 10, PARA 1, FIFTH WORK SHUD
READ "AND" VICE OF)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: BRITISH MEETING WITH NKOMO

REF: LONDON 19531

1. AS BRITISH WILL OR HAVE INFORMED YOU, MILES AND
VARCOE MET WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, WITH NKOMO TO
PROPOSE A MEETING OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WITH CARVER/
CHAND IN LONDON. THEY PRESENTED UK-US AGREED POINTS.
NKOMO RECEIVED THE MESSAGE IN A BUSINESSLIKE WAY.
HE READ TO MILES FROM A DRAFT LETTER WHICH HAD BEEN
AGREED TO WITH MUGABE ZANU IN RESPONSE TO THE MALTA
INVITATION, BUT HAS NEVER BEEN SENT. IN THE LETTER
THE PF AGREES TO MEET ONLY IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE BINDING
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AGREEMENTS ON TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ALL MILITARY
ISSUES. NKOMO SAID THE PF IS NOT PREPARED TO ATTEND
ANY CONFERENCE SIMPLY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS OR TO CONVEY
ITS VIEWS.

2. THE BRITISH REPS ARGUED THE ADVANTAGES OF A FURTHER
MEETING, TO WHICH NKOMO LISTENED AND REPLIED THAT HE

WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH MUGABE WHEN THEY MET THIS WEEKEND IN MAPUTO. IT WAS AGREED THAT A FORMAL LETTER WOULD BE SENT THEM STATING THE TERMS ON WHICH TALKS COULD BE CARRIED ON. MILES HAS ASKED FOR CLEARED LANGUAGE FOR A LETTER IN TIME TO DELIVER IT TO NKOMO BY DECEMBER 3.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NKOMO TRAVELED TO MAPUTO THE WEEK BEFORE LAST TO MEET WITH ZANU BUT MUGABE WAS OUT OF TOWN. HIS WILLINGNESS TO GO AGAIN AND CONSULT MUGABE ON THE ISSUE OF A MEETING WITH THE BRITISH--WHICH MUGABE ACCEPTED WHILE HE REJECTED--IS INDICATION THAT THE ZAPU LEADER IS MAKING A FAIRLY IMPORTANT EFFORT TO TRY TO REPAIR THE RECENT DIVISIONS BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU. HIS OWN POSITION HAS CLEARLY BEEN DAMAGED IN RECENT WEEKS. MUGABE'S ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTIONS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE CASTS NKOMO IN THE LIGHT OF THE MINORITY CANDIDATE WHO WAS THE ONLY ONE TO FEAR ELECTIONS. SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTERNAL OPTION FURTHER SHOOK NKOMO. HE MAY WELL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BRITISH, WHICH COULD APPEAR MORE ATTRACTIVE NOW, PARTICULARLY WITH SMITH SIMULTANEOUSLY ENGAGING IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. LOW

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Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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